CAPTAIN GEORGE'S Penny Dreadful

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AIR CONDITIONED • WE OPEN 9A.M. DAILY

1947

CLARK GABLE
BOB HOPE
JACK OAKIE
LORETTA YOUNG
PAULETTE GODDARD

"Call of the Wild"

"Nothing But the Truth"

YONGE AT GERRARD
RIO

TWO BIG HITS also BUGS BUNNY

Community Air-Conditioned GR. 5777
Program Changes Mon., Wed., Fri.
DENNIS MORGAN — ANN SHERIDAN
"ONE MORE TOMORROW"
Lucille Ball "DARK CORNER"
(Adult)

CROWN 591 GERRARD ★ HA. 0583 ★
AIR-CONDITIONED For Your Comfort
ALAN LADD
Gerald. FITZGERALD **O.S.S.**
Eddie Albert 'RENDEZVOUS with ANNIE'

Family OX. 1417. Queen at Lee
(1st District Showing)
JOHN LODER 'Wife of Monte Cristo'
Eddie Cantor
Ann Sothern **KID MILLIONS**
Geo. Murphy

HILLCREST Christie at Dupont KE. 8822. *COOL*
LINDA DARNELL, "GREAT JOHN L."
FRANK ALBERTSON, "GINGER"

KUM-C 1288 QUEEN WEST ★ ME. 5239 ★
RITA HAYWORTH "GILDA"
GLENN FORD
Dorothy McGuire **CLAUDIA and DAVID**
Robert Young

ODEON LA. 1987. *Air-Conditioned*
GEORGE BRENT
ORSON WELLES--CLAUD. COLBERT
TOMORROW IS FOREVER
JOAN LESLIE — ROBERT ALDA
"CINDERELLA JONES"

PIX LL. 6032. STORY OF A HORSE
"SILVER STALLION"
Lucille Ball
Wm. Bendix **DARK CORNER**
(Adult Ent.)

REVUE 400 RONCESVALLES ★ LL. 4100 ★
AIR-CONDITIONED For Your Comfort
STEWART GRANGER—ROSAMUND JOHN
"LAMP STILL BURNS"
Lee Bowman, 'Walls Came Tumbling Down'

AIR-CONDITIONED VICTORY SMOKE IN LOGES
SPADINA AT DUNDAS · WA-5006
WALT. PIDGEON (Tech.) JANE POWELL
'HOLIDAY IN MEXICO'
MARCH OF TIME! "Is Everybody Happy?"

A WEEKLY REVIEW

DON DAYNARD

I recently obtained a copy of David Ragan's monumental book Who's Who In Hollywood--1900-1976, published by Arlington House a year ago. It contains, according to its jacket, 20,000 entries covering players from 1893 to 1976 including some "lost" players Ragan was unable to locate. The book runs 864 pages and therefore it isn't one you start at page one and read through in order. It's the kind of book you pick up and open wherever the spirit strikes you and flip back and forth as various names come to mind.

Ragan certainly gets "A" for effort--it must have been a horrendous task compiling all the information. What other film book you know about contains bio information on such obscure players as Ethan Laidlaw, "Black Jack" O'Shea and other similar "B" Western performers? And what other film book contains a full page of bio material on Bob Steele and only 22 lines about Errol Flynn?

However, this is not to say Ragan's book doesn't contain errors. In skimming through it I found a bunch of them, some of 'em dandies!! Now, before you leap to your feet and accuse me of being picky picky, let me say I've committed lots of errors in print, including one beauty some years ago in Films In Review, but that's another story. It's probably well-nigh impossible to put such a book together without committing errors but some of Ragan's don't make sense. Such as:

He perpetuates the erroneous myth that Charles Gemora did play King Kong in the original film. He didn't. However as recently as the fall of '76 Gemora himself stated to the press that he was in "the monkey suit" for some of the scenes in the original classic. To get the true facts, check the book The Making Of King Kong by Goldner and Turner and you'll see where Gemora got himself confused and how the facts got misconstrued in the intervening years.

Ragan says Olive Carey and Olive Deering are one and the same. They aren't. Both worked in silent pictures, Deering in particular for DeMille but there's no doubt that they were two separate people.

Ragan is hazy on his serial facts. He says Bruce Bennett appeared in LOST ISLAND OF KIOGA in 1970 where in fact the film was first released in 1966 and is a feature version of a serial Bennett did, as Herman Brix, back in 1938 under the title HAWK OF THE WILDERNESS.

He says Clayton Moore retired from motion pictures in 1959 after the release of GHOST OF ZORRO. That was a feature version of a serial made in 1949 and Moore really retired, except for occasional commercial appearances, when his Lone Ranger tv series bit the dust. And even saying he's retired is probably incorrect as he still does public appearances in the Ranger outfit and even told me, on the phone once, "You know, I <u>am</u> the Lone Ranger" which was a little spooky but again that's another story. continued on page 3

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GUEST COLUMN

By C.B. STRACHAN
The VWO's Man In Scotland

On TV, we are hardly ever without Laurel & Hardy, thank God (played by H.B. Warner, of course). Today on BBC is Oliver the Eighth, not their best, but what the hell. Yesterday on ITV an old favourite with an unfamiliar title--Laurel & Hardy in Toyland with the notorious Henry Kleinbach as Silas Barnaby. Could hardly believe it when I saw him billed (as Henry Brandon, of course) as star of Where the North Wind Blows, after all these years in the background, comparatively speaking.

An interesting but short-lived series on BBC-TV was Masters of Terror, a late-night double, beginning with Mamoulian's Jekyll & Hyde, plus Phantom of the Opera with Lon Chaney, and original Technicolor sequence. Hound of the Baskervilles (Hammer) was doubled with Hounds of Zaroff (British title for Most Dangerous Game). This book was described in Goldner & Turner's great book The Making Of King Kong. I wasn't able to spot Buster Crabbe in this, although some bios give it as his first film, while others say Crabbe doubled for Joel McCrea. In any case, Fay Wray was sensational, as ever.

I'm afraid the only serial known to British television seems to be Flash Gordon, and even this is usually shown during the day. When I see the TV listings for Toronto I turn green in the face. Which reminds me, in 1947 (according to the Film Review annual for that year) Republic announced that all their future productions would be in TRUCOLOR.

So, BBC being the way it is, I'm afraid any hope of a Clayton Moore retrospective or an Evening With Roy Barcroft must be forgotten.

Re. the article on Joe E. Brown, he also appeared in Mad Mad Mad Mad World and was wasted in Comedy of Terrors. A great talent whose films I'd love to see again.

Could you please supply info on availability of Valley of the Cliffhangers, also the Buck Jones book. (Editor's Note: Valley of the Cliffhangers, if any copies are still available, would have to be ordered directly from Jack Mathis, Box 714, 3501 Woodhead Dr., Northbrook, Illinois 60062. The Buck Jones book (by Buck Rainey) may be available at Cine Books in Toronto, but if not, the address is Western Film Collector, Box 17059, Nashville, Tennessee 37217.)

DON DAYNARD continued

There are a couple of other minor errors I noticed--and a reminder, I've only spent an hour or so skimming through this book--and one is really picky picky. He says Harry Woods retired in 1956 which is incorrect as good old Harry played the town Doctor in a tv series shot in '59 and '60 and called Tombstone Territory. It was after that he retired.

Ragan's book is still worth getting, don't get me wrong. I got it through the Nostalgia Book Club for $14.98 but if you wait long enough, it will probably show up on the Remaindered Table in a few months for about half that.

PETE HARRIS

King Of The Royal Mounted is a comic strip that seldom if ever gets reprinted to any worthwhile extent (Woody Gelman's Nostalgia Comics covered it in an early issue), and yet it ran for 20 years from the mid 1930s to the mid 1950s. I remember reading and enjoying it in the 1940s when Jim Gary was drawing it and, as I recall, it ranked up there with The Lone Ranger in my scale of comic strip priorities. The odd thing is that I don't remember ever regarding it as a reflection of or on Canada, even though the setting obviously was Canadian. To me, then, it was just another continuing saga to be followed day in and day out (we had a wealth of such sagas then).

King is usually described as a Zane Grey creation and some sources even say it was based on one of Grey's novels. But, according to Valley Of The Cliffhangers by Jack Mathis, the character was conceived in 1932 by Stephen Slesinger who approached a number of authors, including Rex Beach, about writing the continuity. Finally, in 1934, Slesinger swung a deal with King Features by signing up Grey to write it. Artists on the strip were Allen Dean, Charles Flanders and, finally, Jim Gary who, I think, struck just the right note of ruggedness in his drawings.

The character was first brought to the screen in 1936 in a 20th Century-Fox release called, not surprisingly, King Of The Royal Mounted, directed by Howard Bretherton and featuring a cast of Robert Kent, Rosalind Keith, Alan Dinehart and Frank McGlynn. In 1940, the first of two 12-chapter Republic serials with Allan Lane in the title role was filmed under the direction of William Witney and John English. It also featured Robert Strange, Robert Kellard, Lita Conway and Herbert Rawlinson. The second chapterplay, King Of The Mounties, directed by Witney, was released in 1942, the same year that a feature version of the '40 serial hit the screen under the title Yukon Patrol.

Featured in that second serial along with Lane were Gilbert Emery, Russell Hicks, Peggy Drake and, as an Axis triumvirate, Abner Biberman, Nestor Paiva and William Vaughn.

Republic's rights to the character expired in 1949, which meant that neither serial could be re-released, but the studio got a lot more mileage out of them as stock footage in countless other serials, including Dangers Of The Canadian Mounted with Jim Bannon. It is a continuing disappointment to devoted serial fans that neither of the Kings with Allan Lane is available for viewing, but, who knows, someday they may surface once again.

King of the Royal Mounted could never succeed as a comic strip today, what with changing public attitudes towards the RCMP (in somewhat the same way that the once-revered FBI has fallen into disrepute in the U.S., although not to quite the same extent). Even so, I still remember it fondly and I think it would be worth a second look in reprint form, especially the sequences from the early 1940s.